

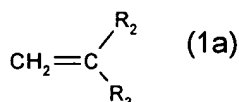
IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete Claim 4.

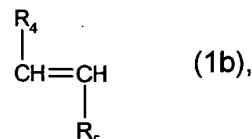
Please amend Claims 1 - 3 as follows:

- Sub B1
1. (amended) A crosslinkable or polymerizable prepolymer that is obtained by
 - (a) copolymerizing at least one hydrophilic monomer having one ethylenically unsaturated double bond and at least one crosslinker comprising two or more ethylenically unsaturated double bonds in the presence of a chain transfer agent having a functional group; and
 - (b) reacting one or more functional groups of the chain transfer agent comprised in the resulting copolymer with an organic compound having an ethylenically unsaturated group;
 wherein the crosslinker according to step (a) is a polysiloxane, perfluoroalkyl polyether or polysiloxane/perfluoroalkyl polyether block copolymer comprising in each case two or more ethylenically unsaturated double bonds;
 wherein the hydrophilic monomer is a monomer which gives, as a homopolymer, a polymer which is water-soluble or can absorb at least 10% by weight of water.

- A1
2. (amended) A prepolymer according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic monomer according to step (a) is a radical of formula



or



wherein R₂ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;
 R₄ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, phenyl or a radical -C(O)OY₉, wherein Y₉ is hydrogen or unsubstituted or hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₄-alkyl;
 R₅ is a radical -C(O)Y₉' or -CH₂-C(O)OY₉' wherein Y₉' independently has the meaning of Y₉; and
 R₃ is

- (i) a non-ionic substituent selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl which is substituted by one or more same or different substituents selected from the group consisting of -OH, C₁-C₄-alkoxy and -NRR', wherein R and R' are each independently of another hydrogen or unsubstituted or hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₆-alkyl or phenyl; phenyl which is substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or -NRR', wherein R and R' are as defined above; a radical -COOY, wherein Y is C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₂₄-alkyl which is substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, -O-Si(CH₃)₃, -NRR' wherein R and R' are as defined above, a radical -O-(CH₂CH₂O)₁₋₂₄-E wherein E is hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl, or a radical -NH-C(O)-O-G, wherein -O-G is the radical of a saccharide with 1 to 8 sugar units or is a radical -O-(CH₂CH₂O)₁₋₂₄-E, wherein E is as defined above, or Y is C₅-C₈-cycloalkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₁-C₄-alkoxy, or is unsubstituted or C₁-C₄-alkyl- or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-substituted phenyl or C₇₋₁₂-aralkyl; -CONY₁Y₂ wherein Y₁ and Y₂ are each independently hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₁₂-alkyl, which is substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, a radical -CH(OR₁₈)₂ wherein R₁₈ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₂-C₅-alkanoyl, or a radical -O-(CH₂CH₂O)₁₋₂₄-E wherein E is as defined above, or Y₁ and Y₂ together with the adjacent N-atom form a five- or six-membered heterocyclic ring having no additional heteroatom or one additional oxygen or

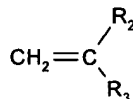
nitrogen atom; a radical $-OY_3$, wherein Y_3 is hydrogen; C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl which is substituted by $-NRR'$; or is a radical $-C(O)-C_1$ - C_4 -alkyl; and wherein R and R' are as defined above; or a five- to seven-membered heterocyclic radical having at least one N-atom and being bound in each case via said nitrogen atom; or

(ii) an anionic substituent selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_6 -alkyl which is substituted by $-SO_3H$, $-OSO_3H$, $-OPO_3H_2$ and $-COOH$; phenyl which is substituted by one or more same or different substituents selected from the group consisting of $-SO_3H$, $-COOH$, $-OH$ and $-CH_2-SO_3H$; $-COOH$; a radical $-COOY_4$, wherein Y_4 is C_1 - C_{24} -alkyl which is substituted by $-COOH$, $-SO_3H$, $-OSO_3H$, $-OPO_3H_2$ or by a radical $-NH-C(O)-O-G'$ wherein G' is the radical of an anionic carbohydrate; a radical $-CONY_5Y_6$ wherein Y_5 is C_1 - C_{24} -alkyl which is substituted by $-COOH$, $-SO_3H$, $-OSO_3H$, or $-OPO_3H_2$ and Y_6 independently has the meaning of Y_5 or is hydrogen or C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl; or $-SO_3H$; or a salt thereof; or

(iii) a cationic substituent selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl which is substituted by a radical $-NRR'R''^+An^-$, wherein R , R' and R'' are each independently of another hydrogen or unsubstituted or hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_6 -alkyl or phenyl, and An^- is an anion; or a radical $-C(O)OY_7$, wherein Y_7 is C_1 - C_{24} -alkyl which is substituted by $-NRR'R''^+An^-$ and is further unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy, wherein R , R' , R'' and An^- are as defined above; or

(iv) a zwitterionic substituent $-R_1-Zw$, wherein R_1 is a direct bond or a carbonyl, carbonate, amide, ester, dicarboanhydride, dicarboimide, urea or urethane group; and Zw is an aliphatic moiety comprising one anionic and one cationic group each.

3. (amended) A prepolymer according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic monomer according to step (a) is a radical of formula



(1a)

wherein R_2 is hydrogen or methyl and R_3 is a non-ionic substituent selected from the group consisting of $-COO-C_1$ - C_2 -alkyl, $-COO-(CH_2)_{2-4}-OH$, $-CONH_2$, $-CON(CH_3)_2$,

$-CONH-(CH_2)_2-OH$, $-CONH-(CH_2)_{1-3}-CH(OC_1-C_2-alkyl)$, $\begin{matrix} O \\ || \\ -C-N-C_1-C_2-alkyl \\ | \\ CH_2CH_2-OH \end{matrix}$,

